



ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

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TO ALL EMPLOYEES AND POST

To: Saltonstall Agency Heads and Contacts

From: Rosemarie Day *LD*
Assistant Secretary for Management and Operations

Re: Saltonstall State Office Building Conditions

Date: March 18, 1998

This is an update to the memos that were issued to all employees on February 18 and March 4, 1998. A sufficient number of copies will be delivered to each agency to ensure that all employees receive copies. Please email Jennifer Frauson, Jennifer.E.Frauson@state.ma.us, when you have completed distribution of this memo to all employees in your office.

INDOOR AIR QUALITY TESTING

Comprehensive, building-wide testing for asbestos was conducted by Hygeia Environmental, Inc. beginning on March 2nd. The test results support the findings from earlier tests. These findings clearly indicate that a building-wide airborne asbestos problem does not exist.

The Department of Public Health also tested for carbon dioxide, temperature, and relative humidity. Summaries of the test results are included in an informational booklet prepared by the Department of Public Health and reviewed by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) that is attached to this memo. Copies of the complete test results will be distributed to each agency.

Copies of the complete test results will also be available through the Saltonstall Air Quality Project Team (SAQPT) in room 206 of the Saltonstall Building, at the reception desk of the Division of Occupational Safety in room 1107, and the State House Library reference desk. In addition, the report can be accessed on the Bureau of State Office

GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS
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Buildings (BSOB) web page at www.magnet.state.ma.us/bsb. You may also request individual copies of air quality reports from the SAQPT at 626-2215.

AIR QUALITY PROJECT TEAM APPOINTED

Secretary Baker has convened a special project team to oversee all air quality issues in the Saltonstall Building and to respond to employee concerns. Members of the team include:

Suzanne Condon, Department of Public Health
BJ Mohammadipour, Bureau of State Office Buildings
Ralph Nee, Division of Capital Planning and Operations
Bernie Schram, Department of Revenue
Don Trudell, Department of Revenue

This team will monitor building conditions to continue to ensure a safe working environment. The team will also provide you with up-to-date information on any and all testing results. Questions for the team may be directed to Don Trudell at 626-2215.

FUTURE TESTING

Mold

An RFR was issued for assessment of mold within the building. All proposals are due on March 25, 1998 and this work will begin as scheduled in March.

Air Quality

Hygienetics, the testing firm retained by the House Post Audit Committee, has prepared a protocol for air quality testing that is being reviewed by NIOSH. The Hygienetics testing will be conducted this spring.

CLEANING

We plan to conduct a comprehensive, building-wide cleaning this spring. An RFR for asbestos cleaning specialists was issued during the week of March 9th. Proposals are currently being reviewed and a selection will be made this week. Agency heads will be notified in advance of their office cleaning dates.

MOVE UPDATE

- EAOF and DCPO conducted seminars on relocation for agency heads and key staff on Friday, March 6th. For a copy of the information distributed in those sessions, call Rachel Madden at 727-2040.

- Several agencies have been assigned to space outside the Saltonstall Building and have begun planning for their relocation.
- State agencies throughout the Commonwealth have been asked to identify potential space savings and extra space in their offices for possible relocation of Saltonstall tenants.
- Proposals for DOR's space RFP are due April 1, 1998. Responses to the RFP may be suitable for other Saltonstall agencies.
- EOAF and DCPO are working on identifying other potential public and private sector office space for relocating agencies.

CONTACTS

If you or your staff have any questions, you are welcome to contact the following offices:

Air Quality Project Team

Don Trudell

626-2215

Maintenance and Operation Issues

Bureau of State Office Buildings

727-4100

Health Issues

Department of Public Health

624-5757

Division of Occupational Safety


727-3452

General Questions and Relocation Issues

Rachel Madden, Executive Office for Administration and Finance

727-2040

cc: Suzanne Condon, Director of Environmental Health, DPH
 James Hartnett, Personnel Administrator, HRD
 Lark Jurev Palermo, Commissioner, DCPO
 Robert Prezioso, Deputy Director, DOS
 Dennis Smith, Superintendent, BSOB



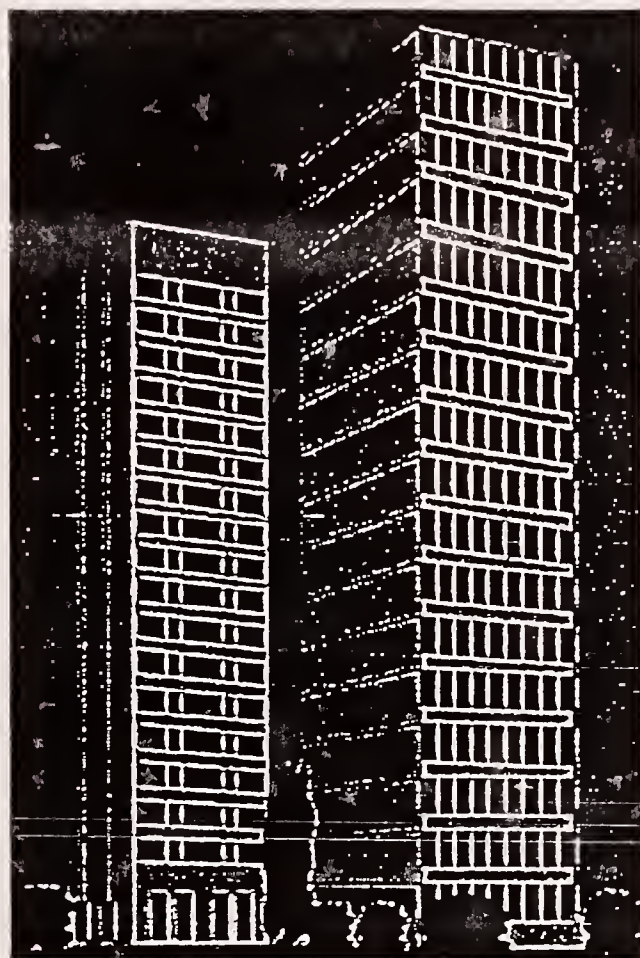
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INFORMATION BOOKLET

for

Indoor Air Quality Testing
at the
Leverett Saltonstall Building
100 Cambridge Street
Boston, Massachusetts



Prepared by;
Massachusetts Department of Public Health
Bureau of Environmental Health Assessment
March, 1998

- Q. Why was the asbestos testing conducted in the Saltonstall building?
- A. In an effort to provide current and uniform environmental data the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) issued a request-for-responses to select a contractor for additional sampling and analysis of both air and surface (i.e., wipe) samples for the presence of asbestos.
- Q. Who provided oversight of the asbestos testing conducted in March 1998 in the Saltonstall building?
- A. The Office of Administration and Finance asked the MDPH to assist them with oversight of the design of sampling for asbestos, selection and oversight of contractors to do the work, and evaluation of results of the testing. As with a number of other investigations of indoor air quality in state office buildings, the MDPH requested technical assistance from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). In this way, MDPH could ensure that a completely unbiased review of all information was conducted.
- Q. Who conducted the sampling and analyses?
- A. Hygeia Environmental, Inc., a well-recognized firm for asbestos analyses, successfully bid. They have more than ten years of experience in this type of work.
- Q. How were sampling locations selected?
- A. In general, four air samples and six surface dust samples were taken on each floor of the Saltonstall building. Sampling locations were selected based on locations that had been sampled in June 1997 and at the request of a special task force set up by the Office of Administration and Finance to address employee concerns at specific locations. A total of 114 air samples and 152 surface wipe samples were taken in the building assessment.
- Q. Were any other indoor air quality tests conducted in the building?
- A. Yes, MDPH conducted an evaluation of carbon dioxide, temperature, and relative humidity levels throughout the Saltonstall building. These results are used primarily to evaluate the effectiveness of the ventilation system in the building, but are also useful in targeting areas where comfort may be a problem.
- Q. What type of health monitoring has been conducted?
- A. Since the summer of 1997, the telephone numbers of the MDPH, Bureau of Environmental Health Assessment and the state Division of Occupational Safety (DOS) have been provided for anyone to report any health concerns. MDPH has received a total of seven calls, and DOS reports that they have received about 6 calls.

- Q. Has DPH been involved in evaluating indoor air in the Saltonstall building prior to the Hygeia testing?
- A. Previous involvement of MDPH with indoor air quality issues at the Saltonstall building had been limited primarily to providing some technical review and comment on sampling plans for conducting asbestos testing in the building in June 1997.
- Q. Can breathing asbestos fibers cause long-term harm to me?
- A. Yes. Exposure to asbestos can cause pulmonary tumors and a rare cancer called mesothelioma. However, an individual must breathe airborne asbestos fibers over a prolonged period of time in order to contract an asbestos-related disease. Smoking substantially increases the risk of developing cancer.
- Q. What type of air sampling has been done to test for asbestos?
- A. The type of analysis method used for air sampling in the Saltonstall building is transmission electron microscopy or TEM. TEM provides the most complete analysis currently available for airborne asbestos. Examination of a fiber sample by TEM allows for the detection of much smaller fibers than other standard methods such as light microscopy. Hence, more thorough data can be collected on fiber length and fiber diameter. Because TEM clearly provides the most information about a fiber sample, and can make reliable distinctions about asbestos and nonasbestos fibers, it is the method most commonly used for measuring asbestos in ambient air or inside schools or other buildings.
- Q. What were the results of this most recent round of asbestos testing in the building?
- A. Hygeia collected more than 100 air samples (114) throughout the 22 floor building. In one sample taken on the 9th floor, one asbestos structure was measured. No asbestos was identified in any other air sample. The amount of asbestos found in the 9th floor air sample is far less than that that would be used to determine acceptable conditions for occupancy following asbestos abatement in schools.
- Q. Should I be concerned about the presence of asbestos in any of the wipe samples?
- A. No. Wipe samples are useful in determining areas where more thorough cleaning may be warranted. Conversations with NIOSH indicate that the way to best address concerns about trace amounts of asbestos found on a few interior surfaces is through appropriate cleaning and a comprehensive operations and maintenance program.
- Q. Did MDPH ask for any outside review of the most recent round of asbestos testing in the building?

A. Yes. MDPH asked NIOSH to review and comment on the results of the most recent round of asbestos testing. NIOSH concluded that these results indicate that there is not a hazard due to airborne asbestos in the Saltonstall building. The NIOSH review is attached to this information sheet.

Q. Were any other indoor air quality tests conducted as part of the current assessment of indoor air quality at the Saltonstall building.

A. MDPH staff conducted supplemental testing including measurements of carbon dioxide temperature and relative humidity.

Q. What were the results of the testing for carbon dioxide, temperature, and relative humidity?

A. Tests for carbon dioxide showed that a significant amount of fresh air is being provided through the mechanical system. In all cases the carbon dioxide levels were below the MDPH recommended guidance for public buildings (i.e., 800 ppm) as well as guidance established for public schools (i.e., 600 ppm). Temperature measurements were within the MDPH guidelines for the majority of areas tested (70 - 78 °F). In a few areas temperatures were either slightly above or below this range.

Relative humidity was found to be below the BEHA comfort range (40 - 60%) in most areas tested; however, humidity is more difficult to control during the winter heating season. Dry air in large buildings is a very common problem during the winter months in the northeastern part of the United States.

Q. Will MDPH conduct any follow-up evaluations in the Saltonstall building?

A. In addition to this recent testing, the MDPH will continue to provide technical assistance and health information to building management and occupants. This includes testing for mold later this month.



National Institute for Occupational
Safety and Health
Robert A. Taft Laboratories
4676 Columbia Parkway
Cincinnati OH 45226-1998
March 17, 1998
HETA 98-0135

Suzanne K. Condon, Director
Bureau of Environmental Health Assessment
Massachusetts Department of Public Health
250 Washington Street, 7th Floor
Boston, Massachusetts 02108-4619

Dear Ms. Condon:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the report describing the recent air and surface sampling for asbestos performed at the Saltonstall Building by Hygeia Environmental Inc. The results presented in this report show that asbestos was detected on one of 114 air samples and on 17 of 152 surface samples collected at locations throughout the building. These results indicate that there is not a hazard due to airborne asbestos. The trace amounts of asbestos found on a few interior surfaces are best controlled through the use of appropriate custodial practices. These custodial practices are described in the EPA document, "Managing Asbestos in Place – A Building Owner's Guide to Operations and Maintenance Programs for Asbestos-Containing Materials" and include using HEPA vacuum cleaners and wet cleaning procedures. Any continuing occupant concerns regarding airborne asbestos exposure at the Saltonstall Building are best addressed through air sampling.

I hope these comments are helpful toward your efforts to prepare recommendations for the Saltonstall Building. If you have any questions regarding these comments, please contact me at (513) 841-4327.

Sincerely yours,

Kenneth M. Wallingford, M.S., CIH
IEQ Research Coordinator
Hazard Evaluations and Technical
Assistance Branch
Division of Surveillance, Hazard
Evaluations and Field Studies

